

Standard 7-1 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the colonial expansion of European powers and their impact on world government in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

7-1.3 Compare how European nations exercised political and economic influence differently in the Americas, including trade-post empires, plantation colonies, and settler colonies. (H, G, P, E)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

In 3rd grade, students explained the motives behind the exploration of South Carolina by the English, the Spanish, and the French, including the idea of “for king and country” (3-2.1).

In 4th grade, students identified the English, Spanish, and French colonies in North America and summarized the motivations for the settlement of these colonies, including freedom of worship, and economic opportunity (4-2.3). They also compared the European settlements in North America in terms of their economic activities, religious emphasis, government, and lifestyles (4-2.4).

In 6th grade, students compared the incentives of the various European countries to explore and settle new lands (6-6.2).

In 8th grade, students will summarize the history of European settlement in Carolina from the first attempts to settle to the time of South Carolina’s establishment as an economically important British colony, including the diverse origins of the settlers, the early government, the importance of the plantation system and slavery, and the impact of the natural environment on the development of the colony (8-1.3).

In US History, students will summarize the distinct characteristics of each colonial region in the settlement and development of America, including religious, social, political, and economic differences (USHC-1.1).

It is essential for students to understand there were differing colonial structures and purposes among the European colonies established in the Americas. Students should recognize there were various European nations that explored and settled in the New World. Among these nations were the Dutch, English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. The types of settlements were impacted by the following factors: the nation leading the settlement, the reasons for settlement, the geographic location of the settlements, the time period in which settlement occurred, and the resources that were or were not available. Most early European settlements developed as trade centers emphasizing gold, silver, and spices. Generally the spice trade with the Americas never developed as anticipated, so its impact was minimal. Where gold and silver were discovered, trade became the primary basis of interaction with the area. Also in these areas of mineral wealth European military conquest quickly became the norm. In these instances the native peoples were ruled

directly by Europeans with the political and economic structure dominated by the goal of extracting as much mineral wealth as possible and sending it to Europe. This model primarily developed in the Spanish and Portuguese colonies of South and Central America. Both of these nations also quickly developed plantation systems that depended on native labor (later replaced by imported slave labor from Africa). The plantations evolved in the Caribbean and Amazon basin where sugar cane could be grown and sold as a valuable cash crop. The plantation system was also advanced in the southern English colonies where crops such as tobacco, rice, indigo and some sugar were grown as plantation crops.

While the lure of gold and silver served as the initial and most lucrative motivator for European settlements, other types of settlements soon became more prevalent. These settlements focused on trade and were the basis of the Dutch and French settlements in North America. The French established trading posts with Native Americans along the St. Lawrence, Great Lakes, and Mississippi regions. Fur trade was very prosperous and it allowed the French to establish generally good relations with the Indians. While few French settlements became large cities, the French did build several posts in the area to stake their claim to the New World and from which they came into conflict with the English in future years. The Dutch established a more concentrated settlement along the Hudson River (similar to the English colonial settlements) but, like the French, were more successful in their fur trade dealings with Native Americans. The last type of settlements supported by Europeans was the development of what could be considered true colonial settlements. These colonies were created by transporting large numbers of people to live in an area. The first of these colonies was developed by the English at Jamestown. It was established as a trading settlement, but of necessity, soon developed into a permanent colonial settlement. Soon after Jamestown began to flourish and the Pilgrims came to America to establish a colony based on religious freedom. The intent of the Puritans, from the beginning, was to make the settlements they founded into colonies of permanent habitation. This type of colony soon became the model for English settlements and influenced the movement from Europe to the Americas over the next several centuries.

It is not essential for students to know the years of settlement. They do not have to know the names of explorers or leaders who came to the Americas nor the names of specific groups conquered.

Assessment guidelines: Because this indicator calls for **comparison**, assessment should focus on **comparing** the types and locations of the various colonies and of the nations who led the colonization efforts. It would be appropriate for assessments to require students to **identify** and **compare** the major attributes of these colonies and to **summarize** why each type developed. Furthermore, assessments could require students to **analyze** and **compare** the impact, longevity, and success of each type of colony.